

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received SEP 3 1985

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Georgiaville Historic District

and/or common Georgiaville

## 2. Location

street & number bounded by Farnum Pike,  
Stillwater Road, Cross Street, and Whipple Avenue — not for publication

city, town Smithfield, Georgiaville x vicinity of congressional district #1 (Fernand J. St. Germain)

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name various multiple; see list on file at RIHPC

street &amp; number

city, town — vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smithfield Town Hall

street &amp; number 64 Farnum Pike

city, town Esmond, Smithfield state Rhode Island 02917

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Smithfield Preliminary Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate in process 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town 150 Benefit Street, Providence state Rhode Island

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Georgiaville is a large village, containing sixty-five houses, several municipal buildings and an extensive factory complex, all together occupying approximately sixty-five acres in Smithfield, Rhode Island. The village, which is located on the Woonasquatucket River, eight miles northwest of the river's confluence with the Narragansett Bay at Providence, was founded in 1813 as a factory hamlet and subsequently expanded to reach its present size by the late nineteenth century. The village center is composed of a large Greek Revival mill with several extensions, surrounded by a variety of workers' and supervisors' housing. The unusual use of stuccoed rubblestone and the orderly arrangement of the similar, but not identical, one-and-a-half and two-story mill houses contrasts pleasantly with the rural quality of the environment provided by the tree-lined streets, the mill pond and the fringes of open land. On Cross Street and Farnum Pike, on either side of the factory area, there are numerous one-and-a-half and two-story frame farmhouses and other residences, with Greek Revival and Italianate features, which further emphasize the continuity between the compact village and the surrounding countryside. The historic district boundaries have been drawn to include both the nuclear industrial buildings and the buildings of the associated community which coalesced around the Georgiaville mill in the mid-nineteenth century.

(Note: In the following description, location numbers, keyed to the attached sketch map have been enclosed parenthetically.)

The village of Georgiaville as it was laid out circa 1813 had a simple plan in which the derivation of water from the Woonasquatucket River and the transportation of goods to and from the factory were primary objectives. In the accommodation of these priorities to the topography of the river valley, two axes developed, one centered on the mill site on the broad western river bank, and the other extending across the valley from east to west, defined by Stillwater Road. Prior to 1813, settlement in the valley had been along the route of the present Whipple Avenue, from the Owens-Farnum-Whipple house site (20) on the east bank across the river at the iron works site to the Joseph Farnum homestead (54) on the western side of the valley. While Stillwater Road and Whipple Avenue marked the northern and southern limits of the town, the western boundary was formed by Farnum Pike on the western ridge and the eastern boundary followed the route of Cross Street and Stillwater Road along the eastern bank of the river. With the major additions of Homestead Street and Hill Street, which were developed in the latter half of the nineteenth century, these four roads continued to delineate the historic community of Georgiaville.

### Industrial Buildings

Despite the destruction of the original Nightingale mill in 1951, several of the factory buildings from the 1813 to 1852 period are still extant. These include the two additions to the main mill, built in 1828

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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and 1846, which presently stand to the north of the Allen mill. Constructed of rubblestone, the additions have been altered extensively. The dye house (map 28, photo 3) and the cotton store house (33), both of which were converted to tenements in the nineteenth century, are also rubblestone buildings, with gable roofs. Their similarity to the neighboring residential buildings erected in the same period is characteristic of the earliest industrial architecture in Rhode Island.

The Zachariah Allen mill of 1853 was built just south of the first mill on a much larger scale and in a more elaborate Greek Revival/Italian Renaissance style than its predecessor (map 24, photo 1). The stuccoed stone structure has a pedimented central pavilion on the south facade and pedimented east and west gables. The later addition of a brick fourth story with a flat roof resulted in partial amputation of the pediments, but they still provide a monumental character to the mill (photo 2). Circa 1865, a stone tower was added on the north facade. The mansard roof on this tower has since been replaced with a flat roof. However, the former mill office (25), a one-and-a-half-story frame building with a mansard roof, remains as an indication of the popularity of the Second Empire style.

Mill Housing

The oldest tenant houses in Georgiaville are noteworthy examples from the early history of American corporate housing. The six stuccoed rubblestone buildings are arranged along Stillwater Road in one linear group of four (map 44-47, photo 4) and in another pair that, with the former cotton storehouse, forms a three-sided court (map 32 and 33, photo 5). Several architectural historians have inferred direct or indirect English origins in the design of this court. With the exception of the westernmost stone house, which is larger than the others and may have served as a boardinghouse, these early buildings were one- or two-family residences.

In addition to these somewhat atypical stone houses, there are also two one-and-a-half-story frame cottages (map 35 and 37, photo 6) and two two-and-a-half-story frame tenements (map 39 and 40) on Stillwater Road, built prior to 1840. Following the completion of the new mill, Zachariah Allen built a pair of four-story, gable roofed boardinghouses just south of the mill, out of the same materials and

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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in the same classical style as the mill (map 22 and 23, photo 8). Two two-and-a-half-story frame tenements were also built on the southern side of Stillwater Road in a less elaborate and more traditional style, in the 1853 - 1855 period (map 30 and 31, photo 7).

Between 1871 and 1896, nine more two-and-a-half-story frame tenements were erected for the Georgiaville mill workers, one on Stillwater Road (map 48) and the other eight on Hill Street, on the eastern side of the river (map 11-18). The Hill Street houses in particular are good examples of the regimented standardization that developed in the late nineteenth-century mill villages.

Circa 1871, Homestead Avenue was developed as the residential street for the mill's supervisory staff. A pre-existing one-and-a-half-story frame house with Italianate features (map 51) and two new one-and-a-half story frame duplexes with paired Greek Revival porticoes (map 49 and 50) occupy the west side of the avenue, between Stillwater Road and Whipple Avenue. Across Whipple Avenue from Boss Row, as it became known, is the two story frame Italianate villa built shortly after 1853, which served as the mill superintendent's residence (map 56).

All of the corporate housing passed into the hands of various private owners in 1935. The buildings all continue to be used as residences.

Domestic and other architecture on the periphery of the factory complex are numerous mid to late nineteenth-century buildings that housed the artisans, farmers, shopkeepers and professionals who provided secondary services for the Georgiaville community.

The majority of the mid-nineteenth-century houses are one-and-a-half-story frame structures with gable roofs and Greek Revival styling. The similarity between these houses and farmhouses in the rural areas around Georgiaville is particularly noticeable today at #'s 75 and 73 Cross Street, where several agricultural outbuildings still remain (Map 2 and 3, photos 9, 10, 11, 12, 15).

The later nineteenth-century houses are generally two or two-and-a-half-story frame buildings with simple gable or cross-gable roofs.

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Single-story porches and bays are common features, as are Italianate and Eastlake trim and ornamental shinglework.

The Catholic church occupied a position of importance in Georgiaville, which can be judged by the architecture of the church and rectory and their prominent location of the south side of Homestead Avenue, opposite the supervisors' houses. The frame "stick style" Gothic church was the largest building in the village, except for the mills, when it was erected in 1876 (map 53, photo 13). The two-and-a-half-story frame rectory of the Catholic church, situated to the north of the church, was similarly impressive (map 53, photo 14). Built in a traditional, symmetrical, five-bay, two-and-a-half-story style, the rectory has Italianate bays flanking a single-story, open portico on its front facade. The church, which had been vacant for ten years, was demolished recently.

The bridge that carries Stillwater Road across the Woonasquatucket River is a small, iron pony truss bridge, dating from the turn of the century (map 43, photo 15). It is a single-span structure utilizing a pin-connected Parker-type truss with a three-sided top chord and vertical end posts. The top chords and end posts are of rivetted girder construction, the internal vertical members have lattice bracing and the diagonals are round tie rods (center panels) and flat eye-bars. The bottom chord consists of a central pair of eye-bars connected on either end to a single, latticed girder, and is apparently a hybrid combination of tension and compression members. The bridge has a wooden plank deck with a composition surface.

Inventory

Contributing properties are defined as those which retain integrity and which were constructed during the period of significance (mid-18th century to early 20th century) when Georgiaville was an agricultural area of Smithfield and later the site of extensive milling activity. Numbers in parenthesis are map numbers. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings are wood frame.

CROSS STREET

- 52 Whipple Wheelwright Shop (c. 1850): A 1½-story, 3-bay, center entrance end gable building, originally a small wheelwright's shop, converted to a residence in the late 19th century; central brick chimney; 1-story hip-roofed porch with turned posts and jig-sawn spandrels on gable (entrance) end; covered with vinyl siding; large 2-story addition to rear (c. 1979). (21)

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Cross Street (cont.)

- 59 House (c. 1910): A 2-story, hip-roofed house, 2 by 3 bays; now covered with aluminum siding; an enclosed 1-story porch runs across the facade and the north side. (19)
- 61 Price House (c. 1850): A small 1½-story, Greek Revival, 5-bay, flank-gable, clapboarded house; set on a small knoll; the entrance is set in the center on the (west) facade and is sheltered by a long flat-roofed open porch with turned posts; small brick center chimney; barn foundation behind house. (6)
- 65-67 Westcott House (c. 1850): A small, 5-bay, 1½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded double house; panelled corner boards; eaves returns; paired doors set under entablature at center of facade; 1-story brick-faced wings added to each end, but set well back from facade. (5)
- 68 House (c. 1900): A simple 1½-story, flank-gable, 3-bay house; entrance set under bracketed hood; small, 1-story addition on (west) side with additional entrance; house set on rubble foundation which is full height at rear where land falls away toward river; 2-story shed-roofed addition on rear; house now aluminum sided. (10)
- 69 Sheridan House (c. 1850): A small 1½-story, end-gable house; entrance on gable end; "picture" window added to west side. (4)
- 70 House (mid-19th century): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded house, set on a rubblestone foundation; 3-bay facade, with paired windows (6-over-6 sash) on each side of center entrance; a shed-roofed addition is set at the rear--it is a single story with full-height basement. (9)
- 72 Brophey House (c. 1870): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded house; 3-bays wide; its entrance set at the end of the facade under a flat entablature; 2-over-2, double-hung sash; scalloped bargeboards on the gable ends. (8)
- 73 Galleghar House (c. 1850): A handsome Greek Revival house, 1½-stories, flank-gable roof, 5-bay facade, center brick chimney; panelled corner boards; small attic windows set into wide cornice band; sidelighted center entrance set under an entablature; a 1-story gable-roofed wing added to the south end; a chicken coop and frame shed set on hillside behind the house. (3)

(See Continuation Sheet #5)



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Cross Street (cont.)

- 75-77 Brayton House (c. 1850): Similar to 73 Cross Street, except that there are no attic windows on the facade; a modern arched hood shelters the entrance; 1-story, shed-roofed porch with Doric columns is set on the south gable end; two brick interior chimneys suggest that the house was built for two families. (2)
- 76 Brayton House (c. 1850): A 1½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded Greek Revival house; central brick chimney; probably originally 5-bays wide--now with central entrance under entablature, 2 windows (with 6-over-6, double-hung sash) north of door, only 1 small window south of entrance; 2 small attic windows on facade; plain corner boards; built into hillside, with lawn extending to river bank. (7)

FARNUM PIKE

- 42 Froman House (c. 1870): A small, 1½-story cottage, with flank-gable roof, set gable end to road; the door is set slightly off-center in the 3-bay facade; 2-over-1 double hung sash; central brick chimney; now covered with asbestos shingles. (74)
- 43 Claflin House (c. 1850): A 1½-story, flank-gable stuccoed stone house, set on a high basement which, owing to the slope of the land, is at ground level on the south and east; 2 interior brick chimneys; the door is off-center in the 3-bay facade; 2-over-1 double-hung sash; simple 2-story porch on south elevations; frame woodshed and privy in yard. (68)
- 44 House (c. 1920): A 1-story, hip-roofed, shingled house; 3-bay facade with center door; casement windows; 1-story porch with heavy columns across facade. (75)
- 46 Farnum Pike Tollhouse (c. 1850): A small, 1½-story, clapboarded simplified Greek Revival structure; flank gable roof and center brick chimney; the entrance, with a plain entablature, is at the center of the 3-bay facade; unusually small windows with 2-over-1 double-hung sash; flat corner boards; small, 1-story, shed-roofed addition on south end. (76)
- 47 Universalist Church; Old Town Hall (c. 1880; 1921): Originally built as the Universalist Church, this building had its second floor

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Farnum Pike (cont.)

removed and was converted into the Smithfield Town Hall and Jail in 1921. Now a large 1½-story hall, hip-roofed and clapboarded; the center entrance on the 3-bay facade is set under a large segmental hood which breaks the eaves line; a black oculus is set just over the door; 1-story hip-roofed projections are set at the northwest and southwest corners, framing the entrance; 4 hip-roofed dormers break the eaves line of the north and south sides; 1-over-1, double-hung, paired sash. (67)

- 48 Tin Shop (c. 1850): A small, 1-story, shingled shop building; end gable roof with 1-story open porch on the gable end facing the turnpike; 2-bay facade has simple door and a single (altered) window; the shop may have been built in two sections: its western (rear) half is probably the shed shown on an 1895 map. (77)
- 50 Bouchard House (1897): A simple, 1½-story, 3-bay Queen Anne cottage; clapboarded, with patterned shingles in the road-facing gable end; 1-story, hip-roofed porch with corner pediment, turned posts, and fretwork frieze wraps around east and north sides; bargeboards are marked with grooves. (78)
- 51 Dr. Irving Cook School (c. 1923): A large, 2-story, flat-roofed brick school; center entrance set between banks of windows where louvered aluminum sash has replaced originals; granite-capped brick parapet, with pediment (marked by a cartouche) over entrance; copper panelling below second floor windows; copper-sheathed cornice set above a granite belt course; asphalt-paved playgrounds at the sides and rear. (66)
- 52 Dexter House (c. 1885): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable house; now covered with asbestos shingles; entrance is slightly off-center in the 5-bay facade and is set under a small gable-roofed portico; 2-over-1, double-hung sash; low, shed-roofed dormers on the gable flanks effectively raise the house to a full 2 stories; 1-story enclosed porch on south end. (79)
- 54 Wilcox House (c. 1885): A small, 2-story, cross-gable, 2-bay house, shingled over original clapboards; the entrance is set under a bracketed hood on the east elevation as is a 1-story rectangular bay window; 1-story porch with turned posts on north side. (80)
- 55 Nutting House (c. 1850): A small, 2-story, clapboarded, gable-roof, 5-bay Greek Revival house; panelled corner boards and heavy molded

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Farnum Pike (cont.)

cornice; center entrance set under wider entablature and between sidelights; 1-story enclosed porch on the southern gable end; a handsome elaborate picket fence; two frame barns; one with a false front. (65)

- 58 Loomis House (c. 1885): A small, 2-story, flank-gable house; aluminum siding covers original clapboards; entrance (set under a bracketed hood) and a 1-story rectangular bay share the 2-bay-wide east facade; 1-story shed-roof porch on the southeast corner. (81)

- 60 House (c. 1900): A 2-story, hip-roof, square, shingled house; the facade is 3 bays wide, its center door set in a gable-roof central projection; 2-over-1 double-hung sash; 1-story bay window on south side; frame shed at rear. (82)

- NC Smithfield Town Hall (1935): A large, red-brick Colonial Revival structure; the 5-bay central section is a full 2 stories set under a high hipped roof and topped by a cupola; 2-bay sections, also hip-roofed, project from the sides; the center entrance is set under a scrolled pediment and is sheltered a pedimented 2-story portico; 12-over-12 double-hung sash is set in rectangular frames in the center section; the wings have tall round-head windows; a curving drive connects Town Hall to Farnum Pike. (83)

- NC Smithfield Fire Station (c. 1965): A red brick, flank gable building with somewhat shorter gable-roofed wings on both gable ends; the facade is taken up by 3 large garage doors. (84)

- 61 Newell House (c. 1880): A small, 2-story, cross-gable, shingled, 2-bay house; principal entrance set under a recessed corner porch; secondary entrance under a gable roofed screened porch; bracketed cornice; 2-over-2 double-hung sash, except for tall 6-over-9 window on first floor; 3 gable-roofed dormers; picket fence. (64)

- 63-65 House/Store (c. 1900): A 2½-story, end-gable, shingled building, 4 by 3 bays, with a first floor storefront; 2-over-1 double hung sash. (63)

- NC 68 House (c. 1970): A small, 2-story, flank-gable house, 4 bays wide; brick facade; aluminum siding on gable elevations; off-center entrance with sidelights. (85)

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Farnum Pike (cont.)

- NC 69 Industrial Shop (c. 1935): A 1-story, flat-roofed structure, built of molded concrete blocks; a garage door is centered on the facade. (62)
- 71 Sawyer House (c. 1850): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable house, now covered with aluminum siding; the facade is 5 bays wide, the plain entry set at the center; 1-story, flank-gable garage at south end. (61)
- NC 72 House (c. 1976): A small, 2-story, flank-gable, "colonial" house; entrance centered on 3-bay facade; large multi-paned sash. (86)
- 73 Store and Post Office (c. 1860): A small, 1½-story, cross-gabled, L-shaped building; the facade is 3 bays wide, with a center door; aluminum siding now covers the building; 1-over-1 double hung sash. (60)
- 74 White House (c. 1850): A small, 1½-story flank-gable house, 5 bays wide with a center door framed by sidelights; the facade is covered by a screened shed-roofed porch; wood shed in yard. (87)
- 76 Pierce House (c. 1850): A small, handsome clapboarded Greek Revival house, 1½-stories, with flank-gable roof; the 5-bay facade has a center door framed by heavy pilasters and entablature; an identical entrance is located at gable-end side door; heavy molded cornice and corner boards; 6-over-6 double-hung sash; 1-story gable-roof wing at rear; picket fence; frame privy in yard. (88)
- 78 (formerly) Hotel Farnum (c. 1840): A large hotel building, 2½-stories, flank-gable roof; plain center door in 5-bay facade; 2-story wing at rear; aluminum siding now covers the hotel; 2-over-2 double hung sash, except for some older 12-over-12 sash in the rear wing. (89)

[on] GEORGIAVILLE POND

Spillway (1853): Zachariah Allen constructed the spillway here to take advantage of the naturally water-resistant rock ledges; two rollways carry the Woonasquatucket River from Georgiaville Pond and past a square stone gratehouse set between the spillways. The gatehouse mechanism is still in place, but is exposed to the weather. It is protected by a woven wire fence. (42)

- NC Town Beach House (late 20th century): A small, 1-story, flat-roofed structure built of concrete blocks. (41)

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HIGGINS ROAD

Mill Office (c. 1875): A small, 1½-story, clapboarded office building, with a high mansard roof; 3 by 3 bays; the front entrance is on the end of the facade and is sheltered by a gabled hood with jig-saw work; a similar entrance is centered on the side elevation; 3 tall dormers on principal elevation; windows have molded caps on small consoles; sash is 2-over-2 and double hung; set at the entrance to the mill yard. (25)

- 15 Georgiaville Mill/Industrial Machine Corporation Building (1828, 1846, 1853, c. 1865 and later): The first mill on this site was built in 1813 and demolished in 1951; rubblestone additions to this mill (1828 and 1846) survive as northern extensions of the 1853 mill, but are greatly altered. The principal mill building here is Allen's 1853 Greek Revival-Italianate stuccoed stone factory. Originally 3 stories, the mill has a pedimented central pavillion on the south side and pedimented east and west gables. The addition of a flat-roofed, brick 4th story has shortened the pediments. A stone tower, originally mansard-roofed--now flat-roofed, was added to the north side of the mill c. 1865. (24)

Warehouse (c. 1880, 1970): A 3-story brick warehouse with shallow pitched roof; small windows set under segmental arches, with 3- and 4-pane sash; flat-roofed concrete additions on east and west ends. (26)

HILL STREET

- 1-3 Mill House (c. 1880): A 2½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded, double mill house, set on a rubblestone foundation; 2 interior brick chimneys; the facade is 6 bays long with plain entrances set in the 2nd and 5th bays; 1-over-1 double-hung sash; 2 small attic windows break the cornice in the 3rd and 4th bays. (18)
- 2-4 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street. (11)
- 5-7 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street, except that asbestos shingles have been applied over the clapboards and some original 2-over-1 sash remains. (17)
- 6-8 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street. (12)
- 9-11 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street, except that asbestos shingles now cover the clapboards. (16)

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Hill Street (cont.)

- 10-12 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street, except that vinyl siding has been applied over the clapboards. (13)
- 13-15 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street, except that asbestos shingles now cover the exterior walls. (15)
- 14-16 Mill House (c. 1880): Identical to 1-3 Hill Street, except that the exterior walls have been stuccoed and new window surrounds have been added; frame garage. (14)

HOMESTEAD AVENUE

- 1 Pott House (c. 1870): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable, shingled, 5-bay, center entrance house; large shed dormers added to front and rear roof slopes; center door under plain entablature; 6-over-6 and 2-over-2 double-hung sash. (73)
- 3 Claflin House (c. 1870): A small, 1½-story, 5-bay, flank-gable, center entrance house; now vinyl sided; large shed dormer on front roof slope; 1-story addition on west end. (72)
- 5 Higgins House (c. 1870): A 2½-story flank-gable house, 5 bays by 2 bays; the house is now covered with aluminum siding; center entrance has entablature and sidelights (now covered). (71)
- 9 Cutting House (c. 1865): A small, 1½-story, flank-gable house; originally 5 bays wide, the two west (front) windows on the facade have been replaced with a modern bow window; the clapboards have been covered with asbestos shingles; center door is plain; 1-over-1 double bay sash. (69) Also on the property is--Store (c. 1900): A small, 1-story, gable roofed store with stepped parapet; covered in weatherboards; 3-bay facade with center door; large multi-paned windows. (70)
- 19 (formerly) St. Michael's Church Rectory (1876): A substantial, Italianate, 2½-story, clapboarded house; 5 by 2 bays; the entrance is set under a bracketed hood at the center of the flank facade between 2 bracketed 1-story bay windows; wide cornice and corner boards; 2-story shed-roofed wing at rear; 2-over-2 double hung sash; 1-story porch on south end; built for Rev. W.J. Wiseman, who founded St. Michael's Roman Catholic church in 1875 (now demolished). (52)

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Homestead Avenue (cont.)

- 20 Mill Superintendent's House (c. 1860): A large, 2½-story, flat-roofed, Italianate house, 4 by 2 bays, covered in clapboards; 1-story shed-roofed bracketed veranda runs full length of front and side, with pediment over 2nd bay of front marking the entrance; 2-over-1 double-hung sash; windows have molded lintels; frame shed in south yard; the house is set on a prominent site atop a knoll overlooking the Georgiaville Mills. (56)
- 24-26 Mill Supervisor's House (c. 1860): A long, 1½-story, flank-gable double house; clapboarded on facade, other elevations shingled; 6 bays long, with entrances at 2nd and 5th bays; the 1st and 6th bays are semi-hexagonal bay windows; an open, flat-roof porch with turned posts and jig-sawn spandrels extends between the bays; large central dormer, 6-over-1 double-hung sash; this is one of a row of three supervisors' houses (see also 28-30 and 32-34 Homestead Avenue) sometimes known as "Boss Row." (51)
- 28-30 Mill Supervisor's House (c. 1871): A long, 1½-story, shingled (over clapboard) flank-gable, double house; 6 bays long with gabled entrance porches at 1st and 6th bays; semi-hexagonal, 1-story bays at the gable ends; 6-over-6 double-hung sash; 2 hip-roof dropped dormer on front. (50)
- 32-34 Mill Supervisor's House (c. 1871): Identical to 28-30 Homestead Avenue, except that modern iron supports replace original porch posts. (49)

RIVER ROAD

- 57-59 Dye House/Mill House (1813): A long 2½-story, end-gable, rubblestone structure, 3 by 5 bays; the entrance is set at the center of the gable end; secondary entrances in the last bay of each flanking side; the outlines of doors at the 2nd and attic stories remain, though the stone work has been filled in; rough quoins mark the corners. Built as a dyehouse, later converted to residential use. (28)

STILLWATER ROAD

- 3-5 House (c. 1880): A 2½-story, flank-gable, multi-family house; once clapboarded, now covered with asphalt shingles; the facade is 6 bays long with plain entries at the 1st and 6th bays; 2-over-1 double-hung

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

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Stillwater Road (cont.)

sash, with a pair of round-head windows under each gable end; rubble-stone foundation. (59)

- 6-8 Mill House (c. 1813): A 2½-story, flank-gable, rubblestone house set on a high basement; slightly off-center entrance on each flank reached by set of wooden steps and sheltered by flat-roofed open porch; rough quoins at corners; 6-over-1 double hung sash. One of a row of four similar houses; may have been built by Samuel Nightingale (see #10-12, 14-16, and 18 Stillwater Road). (47)
- 10-12 Mill House (c. 1813): A 2-story, flank-gable, stucco-over-rubblestone house, set on a high basement; center entrance on each flank under open porches; scalloped vergeboards; 6-over-1 sash. (46)
- 13-15 Mill House (c. 1855): A 2½-story, flank-gable, double house, now covered with aluminum siding; the facade is 6 bays long with simple doorways at the 2nd and 5th bays; 2 interior brick chimneys; 6-over-6 double-hung sash. (48)
- 14-16 Mill House (c. 1813): Identical to #10-12 except that rubblestone walls have not been stuccoed. (45)
- 18 Tenement (c. 1813): A 2-story, end-gable, rubblestone house; the jerkinhead gable roof is repeated in the hood sheltering the end door; the facade is only 2 bays wide; 6-over-1 sash. (44)
- 20-22 Mill House (c. 1825): A small, 2½-story, flank-gable, center-chimney house, now covered with asbestos shingles; set on a stone foundation; 1-story gabled porch over centered entrances; 6-over-1 double-hung sash. (40)
- 23 Tenement (c. 1813): A 1½-story, flank-gable rubblestone house, set on a high basement; 3 by 2 bays; the entrance is at the center of the flanking elevation; rough quoins at the corners; 2-over-1 double-hung sash. May have been built c. 1813 by Samuel Nightingale; with #25-27 and 29, it forms a 3-sided "court." (34)
- 24-26 Mill House (c. 1840): A 2½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded double house; 6 bay facade, with paired center doors set under gabled portico supported by iron columns; 6-over-1 double-hung sash. (39)
- 25-27 Cotton Storehouse and Tenement (c. 1813): A long 1½-story, flank-gable, rubblestone structure; paired entrances are set at 4th bay

(See Continuation Sheet #13)



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Stillwater Road (cont.)

of the 5-bay facade; windows are paired and hung with 6-over-1 and 6-over-6 sash; brickwork surrounds the windows. This structure was built (probably c. 1813 by Samuel Nightingale) as a cotton storehouse; it was converted to a double mill house by Zachariah Allen in 1857. (33)

- 29 Mill House (c. 1813): Identical to #23, except that it retains some earlier 6-over-1 sash and has been stuccoed. (32)
- NC 30 House (c. 1960): A 1½-story, flank-gable ranch house. (38)
- 32 Mill House (c. 1825): Identical to 36 Stillwater Road, except that it does not have the later porch and a 2nd entrance has been added at the gable end. (37)
- 33-35 Mill House (c. 1850): Mill House (c. 1850): A 2½-story, cross-gable, T-shaped house, with aluminum siding over the original clapboards; the paired doors are set in the 2nd and 3rd bays of the 3-bay facade--they have flat surrounds and simple transoms; 6-over-6 double-hung sash. This may be an older schoolhouse noted in Zachariah Allen's diary--he moved a school to this site and raised it a story to serve as mill housing. (31)
- NC 34 House (late 19th century): A 2-story, end-gable house; aluminum siding and altered fenestration.
- 33-35 House (c. 1900): A 2½-story, cross-gable double house, 3 bays wide with its paired doors set off-center in the facade; aluminum siding. (29)
- 36 Mill House (c. 1825): A 1½-story, center chimney, center door, flank gable house, now covered by vinyl siding over its original clapboards; a 1-story enclosed porch obscures the principal (east) elevation; 6-over-1 double hung sash. (35)
- 37-39 Mill House (1853): A 2½-story, flank-gable double house; the exterior is clapboarded; the facade is 6 bays long, with simple doors under transom lights in the 2nd and 5th bays; molded caps on window frames, 6-over-1, 2-over-1, and 6-over-6 sash. Built by Zachariah Allen. (30)

Stillwater Road Bridge (c. 1900): A Parker pony truss iron bridge with vertical end posts, massive random coursed ashlar embankments, and plank-and-timber deck. The bridge crosses the Woonasquatucket River just north of the Georgiaville mills. (43)

(See Continuation Sheet #14)

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Stillwater Road (cont.)

- 45 Farmhouse (c. 1870): A 2½-story, flank-gable, clapboarded, multi-family house; 5 bays by 3, with center door set under bracketed hood; 2-over-2 double-hung sash, with a pair of round-head windows under each gable; 1-story, flat-roof-d wing on north side; 1-story enclosed porch on south end. (1)

WHIPPLE AVENUE

- 1 House (c. 1900): A 2½-story, end-gable house, with 1-story porch across 1st floor facade. (57)
- 2 White's Store (c. 1865): A 2½-story, end gable, clapboarded store; 2 bays by 5 bays; the storefront with center door and large windows is sheltered under sloped projection at the gable end; 1½-story gable wing at rear. (58)
- 4 Joseph Farnum House (c. 1770): A 2½-story, clapboarded, flank-gable house, 4 bays wide; the off-center entrance is set under a gabled portico; off-center brick chimney, probably reduced in size; molded window caps, 6-over-6 double-hung sash; 2-story set-back wing on gable (east) end with secondary entrance with entablature and side lights; picket fence and frame barn. (54)
- 9-11 Blanchard House (c. 1880): Two flank gable, 1½-story houses, joined at their rear elevations; each is 5 bays wide with center door; 1-story open porches on the north ends; large shed dormers in the center of east and west outside roof slopes; the eastern section may have originally been the barn depicted on the 1895 map. (55)
- 10 Mens' Boarding House (1855): A large, 4½-story, rubblestone, gable-roofed building; 5 by 3 bays; granite window lintels, 6-over-6 sash; arched center door on north (gable) end; gabled hood over south (gable) end; rough quoins; modillion cornice; brick belt course under the modillions; 2 corbelled brick interior chimneys on western side--the north one has an exterior shoulder from 2nd floor to ground level; built by Zachariah Allen to house his mill workers; with 12 Whipple Avenue, an unusually rare building. (23)
- 12 Womens' Boarding House (1854): Identical to 10 Whipple, except that piers separate the bays and 4th-story windows have round-arch heads. (22)

HOMESTEAD AVENUE

- NC 15 St. Michael's Church Site: Former site of St. Michael's, a small frame Gothic Church. (53)

- NC Sewage Pumping Station (c. 1877) (90)

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In 1822, the proprietors of Georgiaville joined with other manufacturers on the Woonasquatucket River to form the first New England corporation created to construct reservoirs for the supply of mills in seasons of drought. By 1853, enlargements to the mill pond and additions to the mill made possible the use of 7,754 spindles and 209 power looms. However the acquisition of the Georgiaville enterprise by Zachariah Allen in 1853 marked the beginning of a major reorganization and expansion. Allen, a multi-talented manufacturer, inventor and author, immediately commenced building a larger dam, a larger mill and several larger tenements. With the harnessed fall increased to thirty-six feet the scale of production more than doubled, reaching 16650 spindles and 369 looms. One of Allen's innovations employed in the new mill was the use of hollow shafting without pulleys for the operation of belt-driven machinery. Allen's theory was widely discussed but was never widely applied.

In 1858, Crawford Allen, Zachariah's brother, assumed control of the enterprise which was producing printed cloth as well as sheetings.

A new company, headed by Moses Goddard, acquired Georgiaville in 1871, and once again expanded the mill's capacity to 26,000 spindles. The operation was re-incorporated again in 1889 as the Bernon Mills Company, which was then sold to the Manville-Jenks Company in 1907. Manville-Jenks was the last owner to maintain both the mill and the company housing; in 1935 the industrial and residential buildings were sold to various private owners.

Today, the Georgiaville mill houses the Industrial Machine Corporation, while the many single family and multi-unit tenements continue to be used residentially. Several of the residents are former employees of the mill who acquired their houses in 1935.

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Texts (cont)

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(N.Y., W.W. Preston & Co., 1891).
- Samuel Green and Joseph McCarthy, Rhode Island Mills and Mill Villages.  
(R.I. Arts Project, W.P.A., 1940).
- Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Rhode Island Architecture. (Providence,  
R.I. Museum Press, 1939).
- Gary Kulik, Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and  
Industrial Sites. (HAER, 1978).
- William Pierson, American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology  
and the Picturesque. (N.Y., Anchor Press, 1978).
- Thomas Steer, A History of Smithfield. (Providence, E. L. Freeman,  
1881).

Maps:

- D. G. Beers, Atlas of Providence County, 1870.
- S. B. Cushing, "Map of the Factory Village belonging to the Georgia  
Cotton Manufacturing Company", 1840, (with additions made by  
Zachariah Allen, 1853).
- Everts & Richards, The Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, 1895.
- H. F. Walling, "Map of Providence County," 1862.

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runs southward along the rear (southwestern) property lines of #'s 78, 76, 74, 72 and 68 Farnum Pike to the northern boundary of the fire station lot. Thence continue southerly behind the fire station and town hall, maintaining a distance of 120' from the western curb of Farnum Pike, for 286', to the northern property line of #60 Farnum Pike (82). Thence westerly to the rear (southwestern) boundary of #60 Farnum Pike and thence southwesterly along the rear property lines of #'s 60, 58, 54, 52, 50, 48, 46, 44, and 42 Farnum Pike. Thence northeasterly along the line of the southeastern boundary of the #42 Farnum Pike house lot (74) to the eastern curb of Farnum Pike. Thence northerly along said curb to its intersection with the eastern curb of Homestead Avenue and northerly along the latter curb to the southern property line of #1 Homestead Avenue (73). Thence east along said property line to its intersection with the eastern property line and thence northerly along the eastern property lines of #'s 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 Homestead to the eastern curb of Higgins Road. Thence northerly along said curb to Whipple Avenue and thence easterly along the southern curb of Whipple Avenue to its intersection with the western property line of #52 Cross Street (21). Thence south and then east along the lot lines to the western curb of Cross Street. Thence east 200', north 200' and west to the eastern curb of Cross Street to include the site of the Owens House (20). Thence north along said curb to the southern lot line of #59 Cross Street (19) and thence east and north along the lot lines to their intersection with the rear (south) lot lines of the houses on the south side of Hill Street. Thence easterly along the rear lines of #'s 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15 Hill Street (17, 16, 15) to the eastern lot line of #13-15 Hill Street. Northerly along the east lot lines of #13-15 and 14-16 Hill Street to the northern lot line of #14-16 Hill Street (14). At this point, the boundary extends northerly 1360', running parallel to Cross Street at a distance of 500' east of the street. Thence the boundary runs westerly in a straight line to the western curb of Stillwater Road, along the northern lot line of #45 Stillwater Road (1). Thence, southerly along Stillwater Road to the eastern bank of the Woonasquatucket River. Thence northerly along the river to the dam and spillway, thence westerly along the dam to the southern shore of the mill pond and continuing southerly and westerly along the shore approximately 3000' to the northwest corner of the house lot of #6-8 Stillwater Road (47). Thence southwest in a straight line to the northern curb of Stillwater Road. Thence southerly and westerly

(See Continuation Sheet #18)

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along said curb to the western curb of Farnum Pike and northly  
along the latter curb 135' to the northern lot line of #78 Farnum  
Pike. Thence southwesterly along said lot line to the point of  
origin.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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<b>Specific dates</b>	various	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	various, unknown
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Georgiaville historic district is a cohesive and well-preserved rural Rhode Island mill village that contains numerous significant industrial buildings from both the early, pioneering era of the American textile industry and the more mature and ambitious stage which the industry reached in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The predominant feature of Georgiaville is the Greek Revival stuccoed stone mill of 1853. Built by Zachariah Allen, one of Rhode Island's most innovative industrialists, the mill was one of the largest of its day and still possesses an impressive monumentality.

Other resources of outstanding interest include a virtually complete span of corporate workers' housing, from the rudimentary stone houses of circa 1813 to the standardized tenements and more sophisticated supervisors' houses of the late nineteenth century.

The historic district also contains a little-altered collection of domestic, commercial and public buildings that constitutes an invaluable record of the social and economic nature of the satellite community that developed around the central manufacturing complex.

### History

Thomas Owens was the first Euro-American to settle in what is now Georgiaville when he acquired land there in 1752. Three years later, Owens's property was purchased by John Farnum, who, with his sons Joseph and Noah, established an iron forge on the Woonasquatucket River there. The Joseph Farnum house, built in 1770, is the only standing structure remaining from this period.

In 1813 the village of Georgiaville began to take shape with the establishment of the Georgia Cotton Manufacturing Company by three Rhode Islanders: Samuel Nightingale, Samuel G. Arnold and Thomas Thompson. With the construction of a dam upriver, a fall of eighteen feet was obtained, which was used to operate one thousand spindles in the new stone mill. At first, only the spinning and dyeing of the cotton was performed at the mill; the cotton was put out both to be cleaned and woven by hand in private homes. The final product was initially gingham, but with the installation of power looms in Georgiaville in 1819, production switched to sheetings.

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Texts:

Zachariah Allen. Diary, 1853 (MS in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library).

See Continuation Sheet #16)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property c. 62 acres

Quadrangle name Georgiaville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	9
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2	9	1	9	8	0
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4	6	4	0	8	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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1	9
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2	9	2	4	0	0
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4	6	4	0	1	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	9
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2	9	1	9	0	0
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4	6	3	9	6	7	0
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D 

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2	9	1	5	8	0
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4	6	4	0	0	6	0
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwest corner of the house lot of #78 Farnum Pike (89), the historic district boundary (See Cont. Sheet #17)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Greenwood, Consultant  
Rhode Island

organization Historical Preservation Commission date October, 1979

street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence state Rhode Island

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Frank C. Wilkerson*

title

date

8-19-85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

*for Richard Green*  
National Register

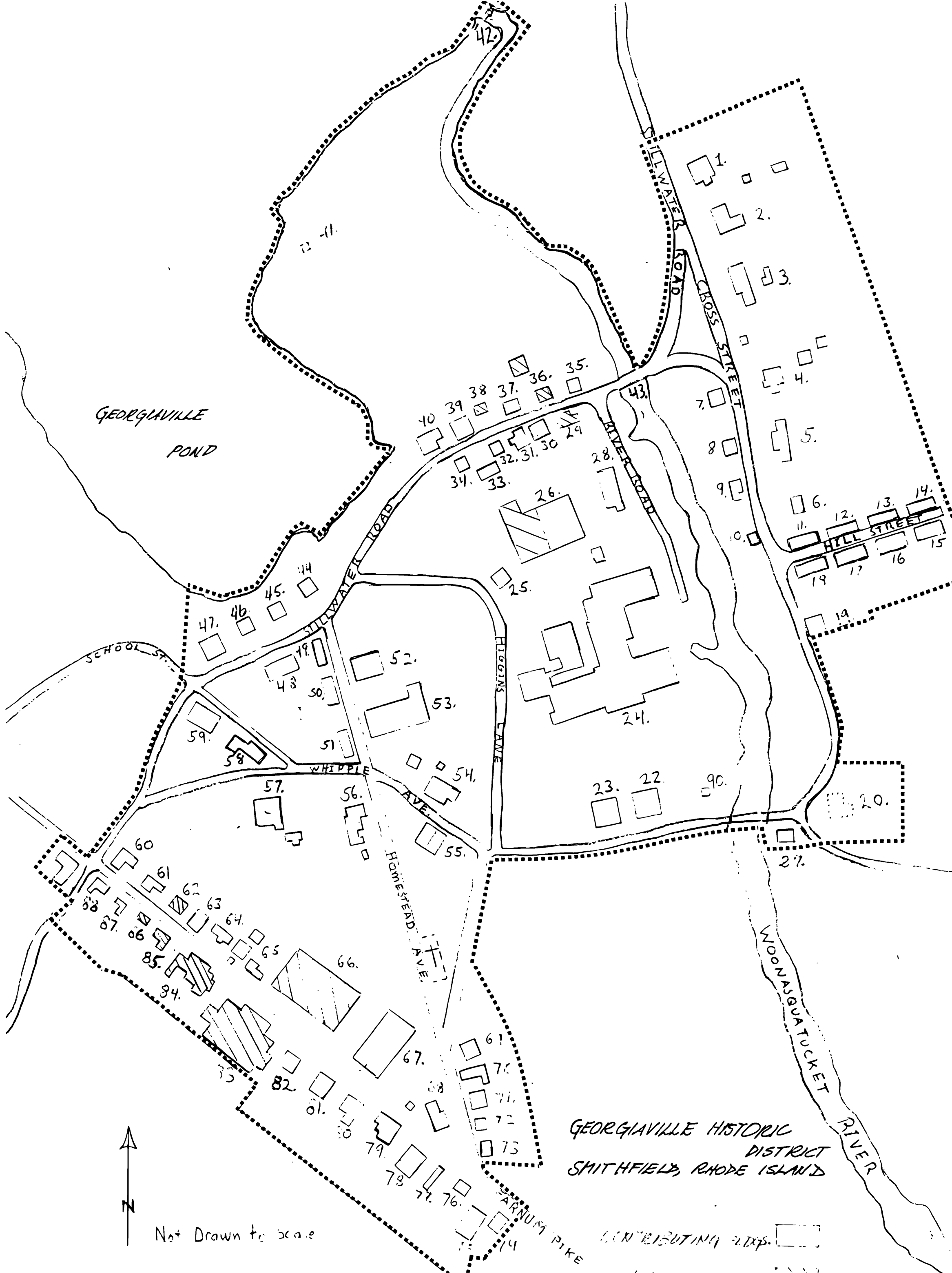
date

10-3-85

Attest:

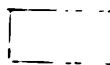
date

Chief of Registration



GEORGIAVILLE  
POND

GEORGIAVILLE HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

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Not Drawn to scale